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C E N T R A L   I N T E L L I G E N C E   A G E N C Y

7 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Validity of Present Estimate on Hong Kong (SNIE 13-3-57,  
"The Chinese Communist Threat to Hong Kong," dated  
19 November 1957)

At the request of the Director the attached is circulated to members of the United States Intelligence Board for information.

*Sherman Kent*

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

Limited Distribution

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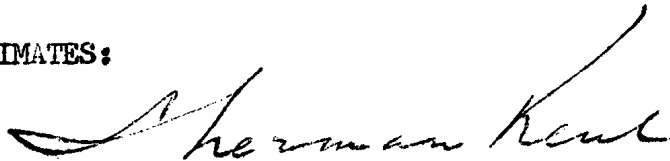
We have examined SNIE 13-3-57 and consider that its judgments still apply, in the main, despite the increase in Chinese Communist pressures against the Colony which has taken place since the estimate was produced. In SNIE 13-3-57 we did not consider the effects of possible developments in the Taiwan Strait on Chinese Communist policy toward Hong Kong. Peiping's recently increased harassments of Hong Kong are probably related to the Taiwan Strait situation in several ways. Chinese Communist pressures on the offshore islands and the harassment of Hong Kong both reflect the more general mood of assertiveness apparent in Communist China over the past six months or so. The harassment of Hong Kong is probably designed to caution the UK against support of the US position in the

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Taiwan Strait, in the event hostilities expand there. In view of Taiwan Strait developments, we would somewhat soften the marked confidence of SNIE 13-3-57's estimates of November 1957 that the Chinese Communists would not attack Hong Kong or attempt to seize it from within "over the next three years" but we would continue to judge such actions to be unlikely during this period.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:



SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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